



# THE NOAA FORECAST

From the sun to the sea and everywhere in between  
News from NOAA's Office of Communications

## NOAA Participates in Successful Capitol Hill Oceans Week

National Oceans Month kicked off with a series of events during Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW) hosted by the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation.

CHOW brings together stakeholders, Congressional representatives and federal and state government leaders to discuss important coastal and ocean issues.

NOAA Legislative Affairs Director Eric Webster appeared on a panel "A Legislative Agenda: Charting the Course" to discuss NOAA's legislative priorities and their prospects for being

passed by Congress.

Other NOAA leaders discussed topics ranging from hydrography and acoustics to ocean observations and ecosystem-based management.

CHOW participants were treated to a special presentation by NOAA Administrators, past and present, who shared their views on the current state of the agency and oceans issues.

A full re-cap including panelists presentations can be found at <http://nmsfocean.org/chow2007/index.html>.



The rescue team discusses strategies to coax two wayward humpback whales back to the Pacific Ocean. (Photo Credit: Debra Hamilton, Calif. DFG)

## NOAA and Partners Successfully Lure Wayward Whales to Sea

NOAA and its partners are celebrating a happy ending to the week-long saga of two wayward humpback whales that made their way up the Sacramento River.

NOAA worked closely with the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito to conduct a coordinated rescue effort with California's Department of Fish and Game and Office of Emergency Services, the U.S. Coast Guard, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Cascadia Research Collective, Alaska Whale Foundation and myriad other local organizations.

The team monitored the endangered whales, administered antibiotics, enforced guidelines for approaching them in the river, and assisted them in their return to the ocean.

Before their return to sea, the whales captured and focused public attention on endangered species and provided scientists with a bounty of information



The NOAA Fisheries Service mascot poses with a D.C. elementary school fisherman at the 2007 Take-A-Kid Fishing day, Monday, June 4 at the Ellipse pond on the National Mall. (Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries Partnerships and Communications Division)

## From the Helm *Admiral Lautenbacher*

President Bush declared June 2007 to be National Oceans Month. From releasing the Ocean Action Plan to creating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, President Bush has been an ardent supporter of oceans issues.

By designating June as National Oceans Month, the President has given us a great opportunity to share with the American people the importance of ocean stewardship to their daily lives.

Outreach is one of the more underappreciated parts of NOAA's mission. However, it is also one of the most important.

Without a public knowledgeable in the products and services we offer and why they are important, those products and services never fulfill their true potential.

For example, if you're not connecting with the public and explaining why it is important to pay attention to the information we have, even a perfect forecast provides no information at all.

Outreach efforts are often overlooked when compared with other budget priorities. Thankfully, NOAA has great partners who can help us make this important connection to the public.

As we celebrate National Oceans Month, let's remember how important it is to take advantage of every opportunity to reach out to the public.

## NOAA on the Hill

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the House passed a resolution condemning foreign country subsidies for illegal and unregulated fishing on the high seas. It is similar to a resolution introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK). Although NOAA has no official position on these resolutions, it is generally opposed to these subsidies.

The same day, Craig McLean, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration at NOAA Research testified before the House Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee on ocean exploration, undersea research, and ocean and coastal mapping legislation being considered by the subcommittee. McLean affirmed NOAA's support for elevating the importance of ocean exploration based on sound scientific research and the importance of further integrating ocean and coastal mapping as vital national activities and endorsed the strengthening of federal efforts to pursue and support these activities.

The following day, the full House Natural Resources Committee marked up and reported to the House floor comprehensive energy legislation, including provisions requiring NOAA to establish a national, integrated coastal observation system. The bill also directs NOAA to begin licensing ocean thermal energy conversion projects.

## House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Releases Schedule

According to the released schedule, the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee will mark-up the FY 2008 appropriations bill on June 8th, and is scheduled to bring the bill before the full committee on June 18th. If all progresses smoothly, the CJS bill could come up for a vote on the House floor by the end of June.

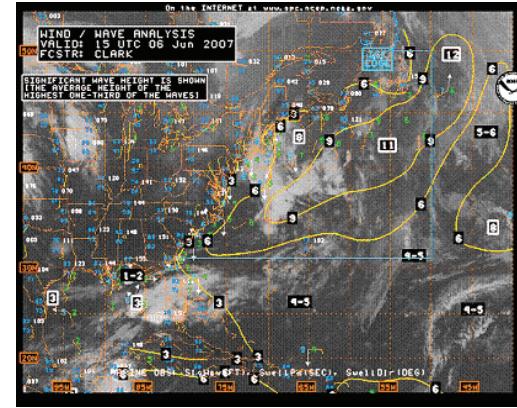
The Senate plans to begin mark-ups the week of June 11th.

To date, mark-ups have been completed on the Energy & Water, Interior, Military Construction, Veterans, and Homeland Security Bills.

## NOAA's National Weather Service Upgrades Ocean Forecast System

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction recently implemented an upgrade to its Real-Time Ocean Forecast System. This upgrade will improve the system's analysis and forecast skill, as well as provide NCEP customers with additional products for the Atlantic Ocean domain.

The Real-Time Ocean Forecast System provides detailed information on ocean currents, temperatures, and salt concentrations as well as water level changes. Each of these variables is important for boating and sailing conditions, search and rescue efforts, oil and toxic spill containment, storm surges and flooding, fog and visibility, effects on intensification of cyclones and hurricanes, and fisheries applications. The model provides the current state of the ocean each day



## Dr. Jack Hayes Named Director of NOAA's National Weather Service

On September 2, Dr. Jack Hayes will assume the position of Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, National Weather Service.

Dr Hayes rejoins NOAA having served the past 1 ½ years as the Director of the World Weather Watch Department, World Meteorological Organization. He has served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and as the Deputy Assistant Administrator of NOAA's Ocean Service. In addition, he served at NWS as the Director, Office of Science and Technology.

Mary Glackin will serve as acting Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, National Weather Service, until Dr. Hayes returns.

### Upcoming Events June

- 10-12** - Western Governors Association, Annual Meeting – Deadwood, SD
- 11** - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – NOAA Satellite Operations Facility - Suitland, MD
- 12** - NOAA Chesapeake Bay Restoration Day - Maryland and Virginia
- 15** - Keel Laying Ceremony – Moss Point, MS
- 20-26** - U.S. Conference of Mayors - Los Angeles, CA
- 21** - Mark Trail Awards Ceremony - Washington, DC

**Did you know?**  
Despite covering less than 1% of the earth's surface, coral reefs provide more than \$30 billion in goods and services annually from renewable and non-renewable resources, coastline protection and tourism.

**Comments? Suggestions? Want to be added to or removed from our list? Email us at:**  
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